

Democratic Party for a New Society

In Spring Revolution



**Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) and
Youth for a New Society (YNS) in the Spring Revolution
*Feb 2021 – Feb 2022***

Introduction

A revolution is happening in Burma. People from across the country, from all walks of life, ethnicities and religions have joined the revolution in one form or another: inspired by the civil servants who refused to work for the military and have been on strike from early February until today; motivated by the youth and manufacturing workers who took to the streets in the first week after the coup to protest the military dictatorship. It is truly a dawning of new spring that not only seeks to overthrow military dictatorship but which challenges nationalistic and patriarchal social orders.

The revolution has adapted its tactics over the past year but has not wavered in its commitment and mobilisation. In the immediate days after the coup, the people expressed their outrage in a deafening display of anger banging pots and pans nightly in unison across the country. A ritual which continued for many months. Within the first week people in their tens of thousands took to the streets in mass protests. The general strike continued and the number of workers in both public and private sectors refusing to work for the military grew in numbers and steadfastness. Protesters started to question their education, the narratives they had been fed and believed. They openly expressed their regret over their silence and thereby complicity in the decades of military oppression against the ethnic people of Myanmar including the genocide of the Rohingya.

In the week of International Women's day, women protected their neighbourhoods from incursions by soldiers or police by hanging their sarongs across the streets. Patriarchal beliefs hold that women's clothing is unclean and has the power to strip men of their virility if they walk under them.

When the crackdowns on the protesters intensified in force and barbaric savagery, the real possibility of mass murder of the protesters led to changes of tactics. Some young men and women formed or joined armed



groups across the country to combat the military; others took to the streets in flash protests, while farming communities around the county continued daily anti-military marches in their areas. The people continued to refuse to pay their electricity bills and successfully boycotted businesses and products linked to the military, including the national lottery. The calls for international sanctions on businesses associated with the military increased, with some notable successes.

The Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) and its youth wing, Youth for a New Society (YNS) have actively participated in the revolution, standing with the people's demands. The political values of "Freedom, Equality and Solidarity" which guide DPNS leave no doubt that any form of dictatorship, including military dictatorship must be opposed and brought down. The imposition of rule by a group of people or an institution and the ensuing authoritarian control of bureaucratic mechanisms blocks any path towards democracy and cannot be tolerated.

DPNS thus stands with the people against dictatorship and authoritarianism. We stand together with the people to defend the rights of all peoples of Burma and to take back the rights which have been so wrongly stolen by the military. With these political and moral stands, DPNS has actively and continuously contributed to the Spring Revolution and will continue to do so until the people's demands are met.

- 1) To abolish all forms of dictatorship including the military dictatorship
- 2) To revoke the 2008 constitution
- 3) To set up interim government
- 4) To establish the federal democratic union

To this end, DPNS and our youth wing, Youth for a New Society (YNS) has actively participated in the Spring Revolution, joining allies from political, cultural and social organisations and groups, across religions and ethnicities. During the period of mass protests, DPNS and YNS have allied with the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), All Burma Federation of Trade Unions (ABFTU), Social Democratic United Front (SDUF), All Burma Young Poets' Union (ABYPU), members of the General Strike Committee, University Muslim Student Network (UMSN, Myanmar); Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA), and Anti-Junta Mass Movement to initiate anti-military movements.

Since April and the change of tactics, members of the GSC have carried out more than 30 flash strikes at random times and areas, aimed at reducing the risks but visually expressing the continued commitment of daring to publicly oppose the military.

This report card provides an overview of the participation of DPNS and YNS in public anti-military demonstrations since the coup. We also acknowledge and respect all the struggles of all the peoples across Burma which are not documented here and stand ready to continue our participation for the success of the Spring Revolution.





February

On the morning of 1 February 2021 the Burma Army, led by General Min Aung Hlaing instigated a coup, detaining the State's leaders including the President, and some elected representatives. Politicians and activists were also arrested. The coup was immediately denounced by The Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) and many other organizations. DPNS issued a public statement and gave interviews stating its objection and rejection of the military takeover.

The military declared that the coup was necessary and "constitutional" because according to General Min Aung Hlaing the November 2020 election had been fraudulent.

On 2nd February 2021, the DPNS demanded that the military accept the result of the general election which had clearly represented the will of the people; resulting in a landslide win for the National League of Democracy (NLD) and significant loss of seats to the military's proxy political party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). In the administrative capital, Naypyidaw, and across the country, civil servants, especially those in the health and education sectors, initiated a civil disobedience movement (CDM) leaving their work stations and refusing to work under the control of the military.. On the evening of Feb 2nd at 8pm, the people of Burma, unanimously expressed their opposition from their homes; banging pots and pans in unison and honking car horns. The anger of the people and the rejection of the takeover could not have been clearer and the nightly ritual continued for many months.

On 4th February 2021, DPNS, citing the political principle which guides the DPNS: “*People are fathers, People are mothers*”, requested its members to firmly stand together with the people and to mobilize to work with the people for the return to the democratic transition.

In Taungyi, the capital of Shan state; the youth wing of DPNS, Youth for a New Society (YNS) launched a sticker campaign; posting stickers and posters denouncing the coup across the city.



On 5th February 2021, a strike committee under the name “Anti-junta Mass movement (AJMM)” was jointly formed by YNS, the Revolutionary Democratic Vanguard(RDV), Rangoon University Students’ Union (RUSU) , Federation of General Workers of Myanmar (FGWS) and the Solidarity Trade Union of Myanmar (STUM).

Feb 6th 2021: 4,000 people take to the streets of Yangon, in protest against the military.



On Feb 6, 2021 the AJMM initiated a street protest in Yangon marching from Parami Sein Gayhar Store, to Hledan junction (closed to Rangoon University Campus) to provide a platform for people to express their desire to denounce the military. About 2,000 people joined the march. In the afternoon, YNS and DPNS joined the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, (ABSFU) marching in downtown Rangoon. An estimated 4,000 people came out on the streets.



By February 7th, public protests had spread across the country, while in Yangon, the number of people joining the marches increased to over 10,000. DPNS and YNS joined a large range of organizations coordinating the protests.

Youth for a New Society (YNS) members speak at the Feb 8th 2021 anti-coup protest under the Myay-Ni-Gone bridge.



On 8th February 2021, DPNS rejects the “offer” to join the military council, the so called State Administration Council (SAC).

DPNS was contacted by the junta to become a member of the State Administrative Council (SAC). Without hesitation, the DPNS rejected this offer of associating and coordinating with this totally illegitimate body. The Shan Nationalities League of Democracy (SNLD) and other political parties also rejected offers.



On 9th February, 2021, public speeches were given at the demonstrations, Kamaryut township, Sanchaung township and Kyauk-Ta-Tar townships on democracy, human rights, and federalism. DPNS and YNS members joined and delivered speeches. 9th Feb 2021 in Taungyi, Shan State, Youth For a New Society (YNS) together with Taunggyi University Student Union, civil society organisations, and civil servants from the education sector, organized an anti-coup campaign which was joined by thousands of local citizens.



On 9th February 2021 : “DPNS requests general public” DPNS issued a public statement calling for members of the police force, soldiers, civil servants, general public and unions to work together for the restoration of democracy in the country and to work hand in hand in pushing the military back to their barracks. In this request, DPNS stressed the need of federal democracy for solidarity among ethnic nationalities and for the positive development of the Union.

These included: ABFSU, RUSU, ABFTU, Young Poets’ Union, Social Democratic United Front (SDUF) and Generation Wave.

This day also marked the first shooting of a civilian protester, a young woman, in Nay-Pyi-daw, who later died.



10th Feb 2021 Anti-coup rally at Sule square in Rangoon. DPNS' Chairperson gave a speech at the rally against the coup and calling for revoking 2008 constitution, building federal democracy and denouncing the military's massacres of Rohingya Muslim-minority in the west of the country.



On 11th and 12th Feb 2021, together with the University Muslim Students' Network-Myanmar (UMSN-Myanmar), Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA), and AJMM, DPNS/YNS co-initiated a collective protest march in Kamaryut and Sanchaung townships, where all forms of discrimination in Burma were denounced. While on the 12th February, DPNS, YNS together with ABFSU , ABFTU and others, co-initiated a collective march and public speeches in Thar-Kay-Ta township of Rangoon division. Meanwhile, in Paungde, Western Pegu division, ABFSU (Paungde), Public Servants' Network and local CSOs, DPNS and YNS co-organized a protest strike.



On this day, the Federal Democracy Committee was founded including DPNS, YNS, pro-democracy ethnic political parties such as SNLD, and political activist organizations of ABFSU, SUDF and CSOs. This committee, with the vision of building a federal democracy guaranteeing equality and self-determination of member states adopted the following five objectives

- 1) to achieve democracy,***
- 2) to abolish the 2008 constitution,***
- 3) to abolish military dictatorship,***
- 4) to form an interim government and***
- 5) to build the Union as a Federal Democracy.***

The Federal Committee is also founding member of General Strike Committee (GSC).

13th February 2021: Campaigning in front of Ministry offices on Strand Road, Rangoon.

The University Muslim Student Network (UMSN-Myanmar), Progressive Muslim Youth Association (PMYA) and AJMM including , DPNS/ YNS request civil servants of those offices to join the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).





14th February 2021: Collective strike of Ethnic and Muslim Youth including YNS hold a collective strike in Botahtaung township, Kyauk-Ta-Tar township and Pabetan township.



From 15th Feb 2021 to 21st Feb 2021,, the appeal to civil servants in government offices in Yangon to join the CDM continued, targeting: the Custom offices, Office of Central Bank, Housing Management Office, and Office of Water Management in Botahtaung township, Kyauk-Ta-Tar township and Pabetan township.



On 16th February 2021, together with local citizens, members of DPNS and YNS co-organized the anti-military movements in Thar-Kay-Ta township and Kyauk-Ta-Tar townships of Rangoon division, Myin-Gyan township, Ta-Tar-Oo township of Mandalay and Chaung-Thar township, In-Ga-Pu township of Ayeyarwaddy division.



On February 17 2021, DPNS and YNS joined to support the march of the striking railway workers.





Feb 19 – 20, 2021: Sit down Strike in front of Sule Pagoda.

On February 20, 2021 two protesters were killed and several others were injured when gunmen opened fire on a group of protesters near a port in Mandalay.



On 19th February, “Formation of the Aniti-military dictatorship General Strike Committee (GSC)” was announced During the month of February, the anti-military dictatorship movement has been getting stronger and stronger and the movement has become nation-wide. Moreover, the political call to abolish the 2008 constitution and the military dictatorship has apparently been accepted by the whole movement of the country. In these circumstances, the anti-military dictatorship General Strike Committee (GSC) was formed composed of 25 movements students, youths and civil society organizations from the ground to represent a united front, to strengthen coordination and mobilization across movements of political parties, public and private sectors workers, farmers and youth, under the common aims of abolishing 2008 constitution and establishing a federal democratic union.

On 22nd February the GSC organized the public assembly near Sule Pagoda. At this public gathering , the GSC announced their formation and requested the general public's approval.



The “Two five campaign

22/02/21 was launched by the activist groups and organizations. The purpose was to show the strength of the movement and requested everyone to come out and join the movement. The whole city of Rangoon was full of the people who came out to show their disapproval of the military's taking over of the power.





February 23, 2021 Protest March, together with University Muslim Students' Association (UMSN-Myanmar), and Progressive Muslim Youth Association(PMYA) was carried out at Yankin, Yangon.

February 24, 2021 Protests, together with ABFSU and members of General Strike Committee's members held in Thakangyun Township, Rangoon with the General Strike Committee.



From February 26 to 28, 2021: Street Protests, together with ABFSU and GSC's members continued in Yangon. Thousands of peoples joined those protests. The people not only protested but also provided food for the strikers.



February 27 2021: Despite the military now using force, including shooting at protesters, the people continued to take to the streets to denounce the coup and intensify their demand for a federal democracy. On this date, they marched in North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon and again the protesters were supported with food and transportation by other members of the public.



28 February, 2021: March from Tamwe Township to Kyauktada Township. Talks on political education on abolishing 2008 constitution and the need for federal democracy were also made during the march. Thousands and thousands of people joined the march.





March

2021

On March 1, 2021: ABFSU, DPNS , YNS and members of General Strike Committee and the general public marched in Tarkayata Township, Yangon. One street after another, members of General Strike Committee (GSC) marched and organized public talks. Members of the general public not only joined the march but also provided food, water and transportation to the protesters.



March 1, 2021 DPNS Central Committee published a statement denouncing the violent crack down of the peaceful protesters and the extrajudicial killings and arrests.



----- DPNS -----

On March 3, 2021 : Protest march organized by ABFSU and GSC members including DPNS/YNS faced brutal crack-down of the military and police in Tamwe Township, Yangon. The police and soldiers surrounded the protesters and shot at the protesters. More than 400 students, youth and local residents were arrested and beaten by the police and soldiers. Two members of the Central Working Committee of YNS were arrested.





From March 6 to 24, 2021. Even in the face of the shootings and arrests, the general public and members of GSC including DPNS/YNS continued to march against the dictatorship and in support of the establishment of a federal democracy. Protest marches were held in Tamwe township, Thingangyun, Sanchaung, Hlaing Township and Mingala Taung Nyunt townships.



From March 14 to 24, some members of DPNS and YNS joined with residents in Hlaing township, East Dagon township, Tarmway township, and Mingalartaungnyunt township and participated in their anti-military protests and demonstrations.

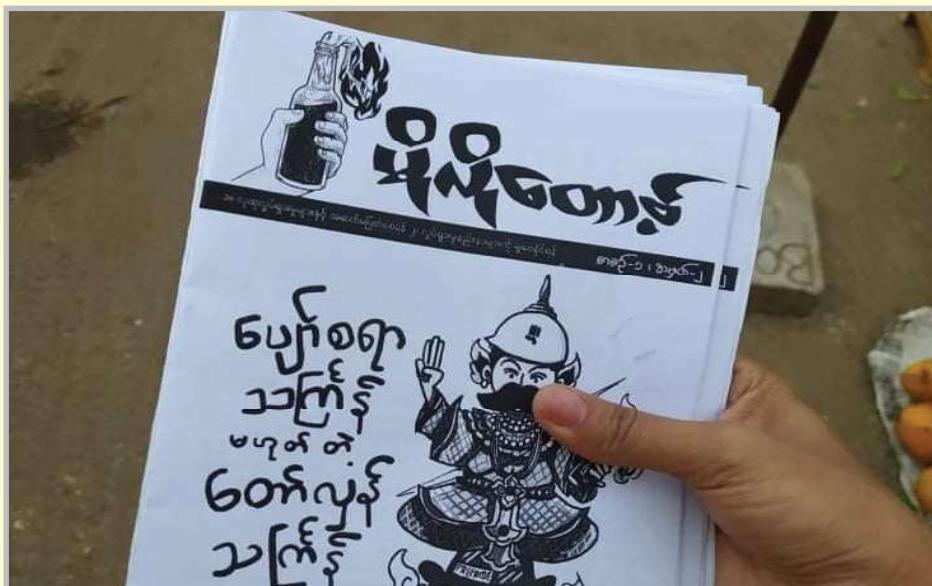


On March 27, 2021, in commemoration of *the Anti- Fascist Revolution Day*, DPNS/YNS joined the march with GSC members, particularly ABFSU in Sanchaung township. The military brutally cracked down the protesters nation-wide at this day. More than 20 protesters were killed in Rangoon Division , and more than 100 people around the country.





On March 29, in light of the increasingly lethal crackdowns on protesters, and the need to find new strategies to denounce the military, the All Burma Youth Poets' Association (ABYPA), former ABFSU members and DPNS/YNS met to strategize and agreed to publish the Molotov Bulletin to inform and encourage the general public. Since then, Molotov bulletin has been published as printed version and as online version every 10 days and reaches across the whole country.



April 2021

April 1 2021: Protesters (GSC members including DPNS/YNS members) set fire to the 2008 constitution in Kyeemyindaing Township,in Yangon.



April 19, 2021: New guerilla tactics were employed and flash strikes under the call to "*Join protests against military slavery*" were held near Hledan Centre in Kamaryut Township. GSC members including DPNS/YNS members joined the strike.





On April 22 2021: “Who are we? Yangon Citizens!” flash strike was held in Pabedan Township with over 300 students and youth participating though security was very tight. DPNS/YNS members were among them who initiated this movement. This protest was the first one which re-emerged with strength in numbers since early April.



April 26, 2021: “End the enemies” flash strike was held at Yuzana Plaza, Tamwe. 300 activists participated in the movement.



April 27th 2021 “Who are we? Yangon Citizens!” second flash strike was held along Sanchaung street- Sanchaung township.



April 30th 2021 “Who are we? Yangon Citizens!” third flash strike was held along Maharbandula Road in Rangoon City.





May 2021

May 11 2021 “*Yangon citizens who will end the enemies*” flash strike in Panpingyi street , Kyimyindaing township, Yangon in commemoration of the 100th day of the Spring Revolution was carried out by activists from townships strike committees, student union members, youth-poets’ union members, and DPNS/YNS members. Around 400 activists joined the protest.



On May 24, 2021 “Towards a federal union with respect for ethnic issues”, flash strike in MagalarTaung Nyunt Township, Yangon despite heavy military presence. More than 200 activists joined.



Each flash strike was aimed at protecting the safety of the protesters by quick formation and immediate dispersal while also protecting the nearby residents. The urgency and visibility of the flash strikes continued to express the outrage of the people and to uplift the resistance spirit of the people.

June 2021

June 3, 2021: “*We, main-land citizens and mountainous citizens are united*” flash strike on Annawrrahtar road, in Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Under the same call, flash strikes were carried out and in Kachin State, Sagaing Division, Mandalay Division, and Tanintharyi Region.



June 14, 2021 “*Revolt by multi-strikes and protests*”, flash strikes were carried out in Tamway township, Rangoon division , Sagaing division, Mandalay division and Tanintharyi division.





20th June 2021, The DPNS has issued a statement on the current Political situation.

June 26, 2021, "Never Kneel down Under Military Boots" flash strike in in commemoration of the 54th anniversary of the death of Chin National Student Leader Salai Tin Maung Oo on Annawrrahtar road in Rangoon and in Sagaing and Mandalay divisions.



July 2021

In commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the crackdown and killings of Rangoon University students the “*With 7th July Spirit, continue our fight, eliminate the military dictatorship by different means*” flash strikes were held in down-town Rangoon, in Sagaing and Mandalay divisions.



July 19 2021 In commemoration of the 74th Martyrs' Day, “*Eliminate Chauvinism, there are more than 9 martyrs*”; flash strike was organized at Yuzana Plaza, Rangoon. The protesters were quickly dispersed when the army opened fire. Simultaneous strikes were also held in Sagaing, Mandalay and Tanintharyi.





29th July 2021, GSC and township strike committees launched the “*Let's overcome the pandemic together, let's fight the army together as well*” campaign in which GSC members, township committee members and DPNS/YNS members donated medicine and essential food items to struggling communities in Rangoon.



August 2021

7th August 2021, DPNS published the bulletin in commemoration of 33rd anniversary of 8888 Uprisings. Followed by flash strike in Mingala Taung Nyunt township on the 9th August.



August 9th 2021" lets continue our unfinished 8888 struggle for liberation of the people"- flash strike was held "together with townships" strike committees General Strike Committees of Nationalities (GSCN) General Strike Committee (GSC) and Anti Junta Mass Movement(AJMM)as 33rd Anniversary of 8888 peoples uprising in Mingalartaung-nyunt township. Rangoon division. DPNS and YNS was also part of that movement.

September 2021

3rd September 2021: To remember all those who have been killed or arrested in calling for democracy, a flash strike was organised in Tamwe.



9th September 2021: "*Let's launch a revolution for the liberation of all*" banners were unfurled at different public places.



September 13th 2021: DPNS published its 2nd bulletin on anti-military dictatorship.



October 2021

14th October 2021, DPNS celebrated its 33rd anniversary with an online zoom gathering attended by Karen National Union (KNU); The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), Kayan New Land Party (KNLP), All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) , Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), Arakan League for Democracy (ALD); Karen National Party (KNP); the All Burma Federation of Students' Unions (ABFSU); All Burma Federation of Trade Unions (ABFTU); All Burma Federation of Farmers' Unions; Women's League of Burma (WLB); All Burma Young Poets Union (ABYU) and youth and ethnic organizations;. Township boycott committees also sent messages of support. The revolutionary organizations, political parties and CSOs sent messages of support and the leaders who attended the event gave speeches which honored DPNS and its members.



16th October 2021, DPNS published a bulletin for its 33rd anniversary. It was the third bulletin for DPNS in 2021.

20th October 2021, Youth for a New Society (YNS) and Ant-fascist Youth Force (Yangon) unfurled a banner on “*Fascist must be dragged down*” in Mingalartaungnyunt township’.



November, 2021

DPNS published its fourth bulletin which was the proclamation of the federal union.

December 2021

4th December 2021, two representatives from Youth for a New Society (YNS) participated in annual meeting of International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) Asia-Pacific Region. On behalf of YNS they presented the political situation of Burma and development of continuing Spring Revolution. 15 organizations from 11 countries of the region attended the conference.

On 5th December 2021, Youth for a New Society (YNS) issued a statement which expressed outrage at the mowing down of young protesters in a flash strike by the military vehicles.

On 6th December 2021, DPNS also issued a statement on the regime’s brutality and its extrajudicial killing.

On December 23, DPNS published its 5th bulletin, “*Fight with the people, Gain Victory with the people*”.



January 2022

On 10th January and 18th Janauery 2022, together with Kyi-Myin-Taing Youths' Strike Committee, All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Kyi-Myin-Taing township), Min-ga-lar-taung-nyunt strike committee, Pu-sun-taung/Bo-ta-htaung Strike committee , DPNS/YNS organized a flash strike with a "*There is no supreme savior*" banner in Rangoon.



February 2022

1st February 2022

One year after the coup, at 8am before the silent strike, the “**We will not roll the flag, we will not be silent, we will continue strike for liberation of the peoples!**” flash strike was held by young activists from GSC and its members such as Kyi-Myin-Taing Youth Strike Committee, ABFSU (Kyi-Myin-Taing Township) , Min-ga-lar-taung-nyunt township, Thar-kay-ta township strike committee and DPNS/YNS in Alone township demonstrating the constant strong will of the peoples to end military dictatorship.





6th February 2022

YNS members sprayed red paint on the streets and distributed red papers along the streets of Rangoon who showing their determination to continue to resist.



In the evening, General Strike Committee (GSC), General Strike Committee of Nationalities (GSCN) and Anti-Junta Mass Movement collectively went on strikes in Tamway township under one slogan: “*When the oppressed are united, the fire will be overwhelming.*”



*Since March 3, 2021,
thirty members of DPNS have been arrested and
detained in Insein , Pyay, Myingyan, Myitkyina, Mandalay prisons.
One man was killed during interrogation.
Two (one young man and one young woman) got released
after 10 months of detention.
Twenty-seven men and women are still in prisons.
To our knowledge, arrest warrants have been issued
for DPNS Chairperson Aung Moe Zaw,
Joint general secretary Hnin Hnin Hmway,
Central Leading Committee member Maung Saint and
a YNS leader Ko Wai Zin.*



One year on and the future

The above timeline summarizes the involvement of DPNS and YNS in the Spring Revolution over the past year. DPNS and YNS have collaborated with a wide range of political, civil and workers organizations across religions and ethnicities to maintain the opposition to the coup and to develop new visions for a future federal Burma.

The junta has used multiple tactics to terrorize the population, both physically and psychologically including 12,009 politically motivated arrests, and 1,526 targeted killings as well as causing the death of many villagers through land and air strikes. Killings have been unspeakably gruesome; and children have not been spared. People going about their daily routines have been targeted. Nowhere and no-one can ever be sure of their safety. It is clearly designed to break the will of the people, to silence the people into submission. While it may have succeeded in keeping tens of thousands of people from marching on the streets; it has not succeeded in quelling the anger and the resistance or in silencing the people. The population continues to defy the military rule by a wide range of means, including refusing to allow their money to go into the military coffers by boycotting the payment of taxes and electricity and refusing to buy products from businesses associated with the military. The CDM movement continues with over 400,000 civil servants still on strike, thus effectively crippling the bureaucracy of Burma. Public displays of anger have changed from mass protests to flash strikes and will continue to adapt and change but will continue. The DPNS and YNS commit to engaging across sectors, ethnicities and religions to end the military dictatorship and build a new federal union. DPNS was formed in 1988, outlawed in 1990, re-registered in 2014, gone underground again in 2021. We have never given up and never will, never been silenced and never will be. As YNS has demonstrated in their activism and commitment there will always be youth for a new society.

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— Public Relation Department of DPNS —

“**မြန်မာစစ်ဆေးမှုအပြည့်ပြည်”**

